

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A gasket comprising:

a first generally planar portion having an inner perimeter and an exterior perimeter, and having a first surface and a second surface on an opposite side from the first surface;

a seal bead rising from the first surface a first predetermined height, and being generally adjacent to and extending about the inner perimeter, said seal bead being made from a first material;

a fastener hole extending through the first portion from the first surface to the second surface and located between the seal bead and the exterior perimeter; and

a seal protruding feature made from said first material and located between the fastener hole and the exterior perimeter and spaced from said seal bead, and rising from the first surface a second predetermined height that is about equal to or greater than the first predetermined height, said protruding feature having first and second terminating end portions so as not to circumscribe said fastener hole.

2. (currently amended) The gasket of claim 1 further including a second seal bead rising from the second surface a third predetermined height, and being adjacent to and extending about the inner perimeter; and a second seal protruding feature located between the fastener hole and the exterior perimeter, and rising from the second surface a fourth predetermined height that is about equal to or greater than the third predetermined height.

3. (original) The gasket of claim 2 wherein the gasket is adapted to seal between separator plates in an individual cell of a fuel cell assembly.

4. (original) The gasket of claim 2 wherein the gasket is adapted to seal between a thermostat and a mating member in a cooling system of an engine.

5. (original) The gasket of claim 1 wherein the first generally planar portion is a carrier made of a polymeric material and the seal bead is made of an elastomeric material.

6. (original) The gasket of claim 5 wherein the seal bead is molded to the carrier after the carrier is formed.

7. (original) The gasket of claim 1 wherein the first generally planar portion and the seal bead are molded integrally from an elastomeric material.

8. (original) The gasket of claim 1 further including a second seal bead rising from the first surface the first predetermined height, and being adjacent to and extending about the seal bead.

9. (currently amended) The gasket of claim 1 further including a second fastener hole extending through the first portion from the first surface to the second surface, spaced from the fastener hole, and located between the seal bead and the exterior perimeter; and

a second seal protruding feature located between the second fastener hole and the exterior perimeter, and rising from the first surface the second predetermined height.

10. (currently amended) A method of making a gasket comprising the steps of:

forming a first generally planar portion having an inner perimeter and an exterior perimeter, and having a first surface and a second surface on an opposite side from the first surface;

forming a seal bead so that the seal bead rises from the first surface a first predetermined height, and is generally adjacent to and extending about the inner perimeter, said seal bead being made from a first material;

creating a fastener hole extending through the first portion from the first surface to the second surface and located between the seal bead and the exterior perimeter; and

forming a seal protruding feature made from said first material between the fastener hole and the exterior perimeter and spaced from said seal bead, and rising from the first surface a second predetermined height that is about equal to or greater than the first predetermined height, said protruding feature having first and second terminating end portions so as not to circumscribe said fastener hole.